



# THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

Volume 15, No. 2

343 King's Highway, East

May, 1972

## **SOCIETY CONTINUES BICENTENNIAL THEME WITH TALK "FORTS ALONG THE DELAWARE DURING THE REVOLUTION"**

At our Candlelight Dinner on February 29, the Society launched the first of Haddonfield's Bicentennial programs with an address by Henry E. Putsch, Director of Program Development for the Philadelphia Bicentennial Corp. on the "Problems and Possibilities of the Bicentennial."

The program was so well received that our program chairman is planning to bring us more programs with historical significance in the context of the 200th anniversary celebration of American Independence.

The forts along the Delaware River played a vital role in the Revolutionary War. We are privileged to have as our speaker at our next meeting a scholar on the subject. Dr. Henry H. Sherk will present an illustrated talk emphasizing the crucial part Fort Mifflin and Fort Mercer took in the defense of Philadelphia.

To refresh our history education, here are a few background facts on these forts from Lossing's "History of the United States," published in 1857.

"Upon opposite sides of the Delaware, a few miles below Philadelphia, were two forts of considerable strength (Mifflin and Mercer), garrisoned by the Americans. While the British army was marching from the Chesapeake to Phila-

### **NEXT MEETING**

**DATE:** Tuesday, May 23

**TIME:** 8:00 P. M.

**PLACE:** Friends Meeting Auditorium, Friends Avenue at Lake Street

delphia, the fleet had sailed around to the Delaware, and had approached to the head of that bay. The forts commanded the river; and chevaux-frie (obstructions placed in river channels to prevent the passage of vessels) just below them, completely obstructed it, so that the army in Philadelphia could obtain no supplies from the fleet.

The possession of these forts was important, and on the 22nd of October, they were attacked by detachments sent by (British Commander) Howe. Fort Mercer was assailed by two thousand Hessian grenadiers under Count Donop. They were repulsed by the garrison of less than five hundred men, under Lieutenant-Colonel Christopher Greene, of Rhode Island, after losing their commander, and almost four hundred soldiers. The garrison of Fort Mifflin,

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### NEW ATTRACTIONS HEADLINE VILLAGE FAIR, JUNE 3

A celebrated author on historical subjects, Ann Hawks Hutton, will autograph her new book, "The Year and the Spirit of '76," at the Society's Annual Village Fair on Saturday, June 3, between 10 A. M. and 11 A. M.

Each year the Woman's Committee, sponsor of the Fair, has created new and sparkling attractions to make this event an ever-increasing delight to visitors from near and far.

In keeping with the Society's leadership in the Bicentennial program, Mrs. Hutton's book will be for sale and presented by the author to give us all a vitally interesting background for the many Bicentennial programs to come.

The theme of this year's Fair is "BIRDS." Decorations are designed around this theme even to charming bird's nests on each of the luncheon tables which will be for sale. The luncheon will be held in the garden of Mrs. Stanley Brown across the street from Greenfield Hall.

Inside headquarters there will be a rare exhibit of interesting and antique birds. On loan from fine collections these include specimens of Boehm, porcelain, ceramic, old decoys, hand-carved water fowl, and others.

Mrs. Charles A. Richardson is chairman of the bird exhibit and has asked for additions to the exhibit from members who may have decorative birds in their homes. If so, phone Marge at 429-6976.

Hand-made articles for sale this year offer more variety and beauty than ever before, according to Mrs. Evelyn Grimm, Chairman of the Woman's Committee.

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**MARK CALENDARS — SATURDAY AFTERNOON, JULY 8.** Our annual outdoor supper meeting will be held on the grounds of Greenfield Hall. Program will be mailed to all members before the meeting.

### CANDLELIGHT TOUR TO FEATURE HOMES IN HISTORIC DISTRICT

The creation of the Historic District in Haddonfield last November has won recognition by historical and preservation societies throughout the state. The National Trust for Historic Preservation in Washington, D. C. will feature our Historic District in a forthcoming issue of "Preservation News."

The Society will also recognize its historic architectural treasures as a timely theme for this year's Candlelight Tour which will be held in October.

Co-chairmen of the Candlelight Tour Committee are Mrs. James G. Aiken and Mrs. Louis H. Goettelmann.

Selection of homes will represent architecture from the 18th and 19th centuries.

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### LOCAL STUDENT CATALOGUES SOCIETY TOOL COLLECTION

William Reifsteck, II, a sophomore at Haddonfield High School, contributed an outstanding service to this Society when he catalogued and arranged all the tools and instruments we have collected and stored in the basement of Greenfield Hall.

The announcement of the completion of the cataloguing of a collection of several hundred items was made by the youth, at the Candlelight Dinner.

Mrs. Gertrude Hess, our Librarian, describes the work done by Bill in glowing terms. "The catalogue made for our Library includes a sketch of each tool and description, arranged in categories. Each tool is tagged and numbered so that its history and purpose may be found in the Library catalogue."

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under Lieutenant-Colonel Samuel Smith also made a gallant defense, but after a series of assaults by land and water, it was abandoned (Nov. 16, 1777). Two days afterward, Fort Mercer was also abandoned, and several British ships sailed up to Philadelphia."

**"THE BICENTENNIAL—PROBLEMS AND POSSIBILITIES"****BY HENRY E. PUTSCH, DIRECTOR,****PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PHILADELPHIA BICENTENNIAL CORP.***Excerpts from an address delivered at the Annual Candlelight Dinner of the Haddonfield Historical Society, February 29*

"We have had many long years of planning and debate in Philadelphia and throughout the region on this matter of the Bicentennial. . . . and I would like to give a frank assessment of its problems, its possibilities and its hopes. Let me do a little perspective on this matter.

"A year ago we were in discussion with Dr. Milten Eisenhower in regard to the possibility that he might come to Philadelphia in a leadership position in regard to the Bicentennial. As things worked out he accepted the presidency of a university instead, but at that time he made the comment (we were in the middle of one of our notorious controversies) that we were kind of reliving history. During the days of the Revolution, his studies had led him to believe, one-third of the public was violently in favor of the Revolution and separation, another third was violently opposed and that another third just didn't give a damn. That does about sum up the way it feels on our side of the river.

"The historical perspective gets more and more interesting as you get into it. The 1876 Centennial celebration in the Fairmount Park area was, of course, a great moment for the world for many, many reasons. The observation one commentator made was that until that moment at no time in modern history had a democracy, in fact, made it to a hundred years until 1876. The Centennial also marked the healing of the wounds of the Civil War and was actually the first occasion at which great masses of people were intermingling in a happy and joyful affirmation of their faith in the future and their determination to solve problems. 1876 (as now) was also a time of some stress and the changing society of the day. All progress on the plans for 1876 was interrupted by demonstrators until proper representation on the Board of Directors of the Centennial was assured. It is interesting the way all of these experiences keep coming back.

"Now in the many years of discussion about 1976 it should be noted that '67 and '68 was a critical period where a certain principle was arrived at in Philadelphia that we have been trying to live with and work out ever since. That principle was that a worthy celebration of what this country is all about required significant international participation. The reasons for that are obvious. Clearly the Revolution itself was an event with high international participation. The Declaration of Independence, itself, is addressed to the other nations of the world and expresses the concern of the Fathers of this Country for the opinion of mankind, and the fact that this country is unique in its pluralistic society representing all those strains in nations and countries and races of the earth brought together on this Noah's Ark we call America. This principle was adopted along with another one—that we did not want to work in the tradition of the Fair. The New York World's Fair was, I hope, the end of that tradition.

"The United States has never before now been a member of the Bureau of International Expositions in Paris. It is a unique organization. Its concerns are social and cultural and represent the only existing mechanism for the sovereign to sovereign official relationship of countries to go on free from the concerns of the political arena—and that's an important point.

"Some other early objectives which the Corporation has through all its troubles held to is the notion that whatever is achieved through the Exposition we should achieve as much permanent value as we can, both in the hardware, the things that are built, and also the software, the kinds of programs that are done.

"Up until now no Class I World Exposition, under BIE control, has offered more than pavilions as its basic form of participation. We went abroad and said we wished to de-emphasize national pavilions as much as possible and therefore that form of participation was going to be the bottom of our list. The top of our list was going to be the cultural and performing arts from around the entire world and to gather these together, the young artists as well as the established artists. Secondly, to develop certain theme areas and subjects which were universal concerns in the exploration of the problems of mankind along with the kind of demonstrations as to how we can better achieve solutions to these problems. Thirdly, demonstration projects. Now that has never been seen before in expositions but we are looking to this one for specific demonstrations of international solutions to common problems in education, in health, in transportation, and in many other such fields which affect people everywhere."

*(The above are the opening remarks of Mr. Putsch's talk, setting forth the fundamental philosophy behind the plans for the Bicentennial Exposition. Copies of the full 7-page talk and questions from the audience, and answers, are available.)*

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Haddonfield, New Jersey

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THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF HADDONFIELD

**CANDLELIGHT DINNER ACCLAIMED  
HUGE SUCCESS FOR SOCIETY**

The following is a report of the Society's Candlelight Dinner on February 29 by our president, Louis H. Goettelmann.

To our members:

Our Candlelight Dinner this year was a banner success for the Historical Society. The Dinner was oversubscribed with an attendance of 166 members and guests, and standing room for those who came to hear the speaker though they could not be accommodated at the sellout Dinner.

Many members of our Society helped to make the evening an outstanding community-wide event. A large part of the success was due to the efforts of our Bulletin Editor and Public Relations Chairman, Mrs. Joan Aiken, for initiating the idea of a Bicentennial speaker, as that topic was at its height of interest during February, for securing as our speaker Mr. Henry E. Putsch, Director of Program Development for the Philadelphia Bicentennial Corp., the man heralded as the one who knew most about the Bicentennial and was most eloquent in telling citizens about it, and publicizing the program in all local papers, the Courier-post, and the Bulletin and the Inquirer.

Mr. Putsch more than lived up to the

enthusiastic advance publicity. He informed and moved his audience to a new and deeper comprehension of the significance of the Bicentennial for the Delaware Valley area. He brought us information which was not to be obtained in the press and gave the Historical Society a "scoop" on decisions made that very morning affecting the Bicentennial Exposition.

Besides the exciting content of his talk, Mr. Putsch proved a captivating speaker and we have received many letters and phone calls of commendation for our program.

We owe it to our member, Larry Test, that Mr. Putsch's talk was tape recorded and therefore we were able to have a limited number of copies made. If you would like a copy, get in touch with me or with Mrs. Aiken.

The Society's Bicentennial theme and eminent speaker attracted many distinguished guests to the Candlelight Dinner, among whom were ex-Governor Alfred E. Driscoll, Honorary Chairman of the Haddonfield Bicentennial Committee and Chairman of the New Jersey State Historical Society Bicentennial Committee; Mr. Richard Hineline, President of the Camden County Historical Society; and Herbert Bernstein, Chairman of the Batsto Citizens Committee.

Louis H. Goettelmann  
*President*